

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lee Cheng on Monday, March 22nd, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows: please amend independent claim 18 as follows. Any added text shall be underlined while subtracted text is ~~struck-through~~.

Claim 18. An electrostatic device configured and disposed to electrostatically charge and dispense a liquid composition from a supply to a dispensing point, wherein the device comprises: an actuator; a high voltage generator to provide a high voltage; a power source to activate said actuator and said high voltage generator; a reservoir to contain the supply of said liquid composition; and a dispensing unit comprising: a pump in immediate downstream relation with the reservoir for supplying the liquid composition from the reservoir, said pump being mechanically connected to said actuator to be driven thereby; an emitter electrode to electrostatically charge the liquid composition, the emitter electrode being electrically connected to said high voltage generator; and a nozzle to dispense the liquid composition, said nozzle being disposed at the dispensing point; wherein the device further comprises a field electrode surrounding the reservoir, said field electrode being connected to said high voltage generator ~~for providing the~~

~~entire liquid composition with a common electric potential~~; and wherein the reservoir is configured to provide a removable cartridge, said reservoir being formed separately from the field electrode, and wherein the emitter electrode and field electrode provide the entire liquid composition with more or less a common electric potential; said device includes a housing carrying said actuator, said high voltage generator, and said power source, said housing being formed with a concavity for detachably receiving said reservoir, said field electrode being incorporated in said housing around said concavity, and said reservoir being coupled to said dispensing unit and is cooperative therewith to define said cartridge, wherein said field electrode is in shaped to surround the reservoir.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 5-20 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN M. CERNOCH whose telephone number is (571)270-3540. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on (571)272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. M. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3752
3/25/2010

/Dinh Q Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3752